GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3397
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
ILLEGAL FISHING OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that not a single trawler`s licence has been cancelled in coastal areas of the country for the last five years for not using the mandatory Turtle Excluder Device;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to check illegal fishing endangering Olive Ridley Turtles in coastal areas including Orissa Coast?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) Although the use of Turtle Excluder Device has been made mandatory requisitenumber of these devices are not available in the market. Central Institute of Fisheries,Nautical Engineering and Training, Cochin has finalised the design of Turtle Excluder Device.The Institute at present is involved in the process of popularising the design of the Turtle Excluder Device and improving its availability. Meanwhile, Fisheries Department of Orissa isensuring that the trawlers which have procured Turtle Excluder Devices use them regularly.